

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 and 17-26 are pending. Claims 11-16 have been canceled in a previous response. Allowance of claims 17-20 is noted with appreciation. Claim 1 has been amended and claims 21-26 have been added herein to further emphasize novel aspects of the applicants' claimed invention. Entry of amended claim 1 and added claims 21-26 is respectfully requested for the following reasons. It is the applicants' representative's belief that such amendments further prosecution by placing the claims in better condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application in light of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-9 are finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) or § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,607,429 (Damgaard). Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 is directed to a chemical mechanical polishing system that comprises a platen that has a first surface coupling to a polishing pad. The first surface of the platen comprises a generally circular center portion and an annular portion surrounding the center portion. The annular portion of the first surface has a bond strength to the polishing pad that is greater than a bond strength of the center portion of the platen to the polishing pad. **A liquid slurry delivery apparatus configured to deliver a liquid slurry to a polishing surface of the polishing pad.** Damgaard does not teach or suggest this feature.

Damgaard teaches a support in combination with self-sticking abrasive or polishing sheets. (See Column 2, lines 15-16). The cited reference also teaches a support where the adhesive force is manipulated by applying two materials having different surface tensions on a base material and where the three materials together form the surface of the support in order to receive the self-sticking polishing and/or abrasive means which can result in a variation in adhesion. Damgaard, however, is silent with respect to a liquid slurry delivery apparatus configured to deliver a liquid

slurry to a polishing surface of the polishing pad. Therefore Damgaard fails to anticipate the invention of claim 1 and its respective depending claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIM UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,607,429 (Damgaard) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,422,921 (Ettinger). It is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn for at least the following reasons. Claim 10 depends from independent claim 1, which is allowable subject matter. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection be withdrawn.

III. CONCLUSION

For at least the above reasons, the claims currently under consideration are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone interview would be helpful to facilitate favorable prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Should any fees be due as a result of the filing of this response, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the Deposit Account Number 20-0668, TI-36657.

Respectfully submitted,
ESCHWEILER & ASSOCIATES, LLC

By



Thomas G. Eschweiler
Reg. No. 36,981

National City Bank Building
629 Euclid Avenue, Suite 1210
Cleveland, Ohio 44114
(216) 502-0600



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR 1.8a)

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: March 27, 2006

Christine Gillroy
Christine Gillroy